R. D. W. Connor

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DAVID PATON

ARCHITECT OF THE NORTH
CAROLINA STATE CAPITOL

1909

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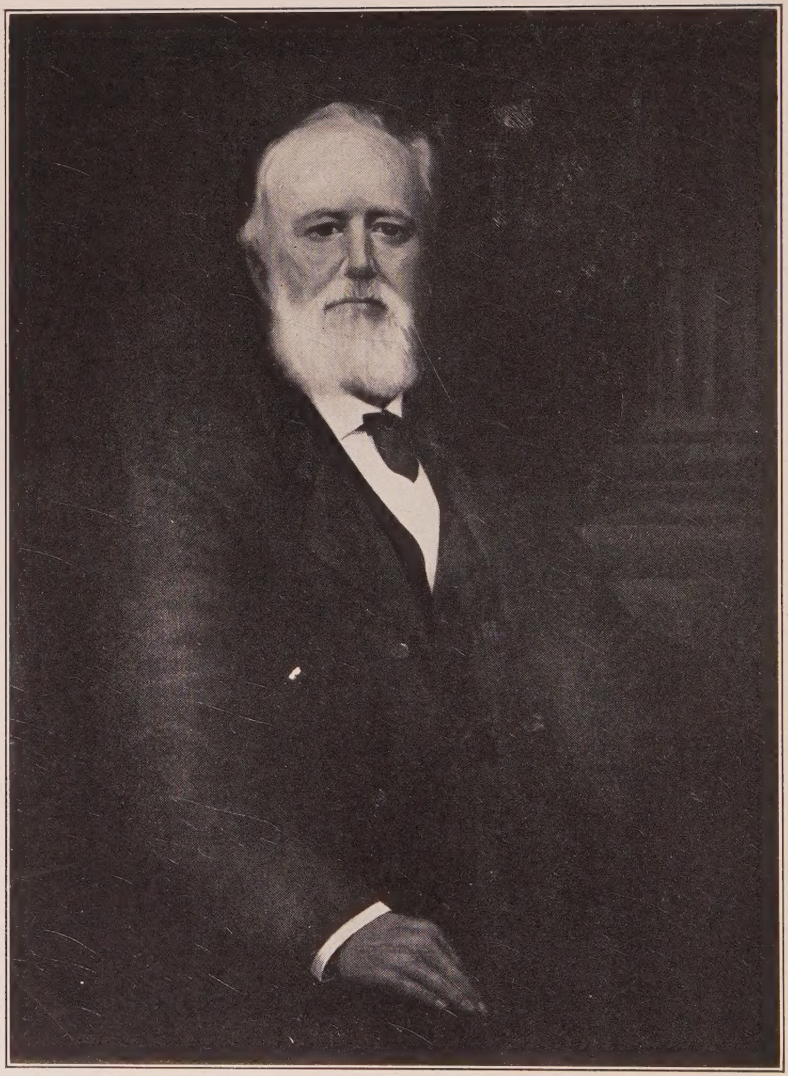

DAVID PATON.

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ARCHITECT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE CAPITOL.

AN ADDRESS

BY

SAMUEL A. ASHE, ESQ.

DELIVERED IN THE SENATE CHAMBER OF THE STATE CAPITOL AT RALEIGH, MARCH 12, 1909, UPON THE PRESENTATION OF THE PORTRAIT OF DAVID PATON TO THE STATE, AND ITS

ACCEPTANCE

BY

GOVERNOR W. W. KITCHIN

RALEIGH
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THE NORTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

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R. D. W. CONNOR, *Secretary,*

RALEIGH, N. C.

DAVID PATON.

Your Excellency and Gentlemen of the Council of State:

At the instance of Mrs. C. E. Foy, of New Bern, and her children, and of Mrs. E. M. Shute, of New York, I beg to present to the State the portrait of Mr. David Paton, the honored father of Mrs. Foy and of Mrs. Shute, and the architect of this building.

As designer and architect, the talents of Mr. Paton found expression in this superb edifice, which, indeed, is an enduring monument to his skill and capacity, bearing ample testimony to his superior attainments and high accomplishments in his profession.

At the time of the erection of this Capitol it was one of the most notable buildings in the United States. Whether we consider its massive structure or its admirable design or the thorough execution of every detail of the work, it was a remarkable performance; and when we recall the condition of affairs within the State at that period we find still greater cause to regard it with admiration and to praise that generation of North Carolinians for the public spirit which led to its erection.

For more than a century our people had no Statehouse. In the early Colonial days the public documents were kept at Edenton, but there was no Government building. In 1766 an appropriation was made to build a Governor's Mansion at New Bern, and four years later the public offices were established there. The General Assembly, however, frequently met elsewhere.

During the Revolution, in 1779, in order to have a central place of meeting, the Assembly appointed a committee to select a site, either in Johnston, Wake or Chatham counties, for the State Capital; but two years later Hillsboro, then a thriving town, was selected as the capital, and the public offices were established there and the palace at New Bern was directed to be sold. However, before the summer was over, that enterprising Tory, Fanning, captured Hillsboro, carried off the Governor and all the State officers then present; and doubtless because of the activity of the Tories in the Upper Cape Fear region the

resolution was rescinded and the Assembly again became perambulatory. It met as far west as Salem and as far east as New Bern; sessions were held at Halifax, Tarboro, Smithfield, and Fayetteville; and once at Wake Courthouse, in the old Joel Lane residence, which is still standing in this city, on Boylan Avenue. That was in one of the darkest hours of the Revolution, and the legislative body was protected from a Tory raid by a regiment of militia. It would indeed have been lamentable had the dreaded Fanning swooped down on the Assembly and carried off into captivity the assembled wisdom of the State, unless, indeed, the legislators had taken to the bushes, like Governor Patrick Henry and the Virginia Legislature had to do just at that particular time to escape capture.

Eventually, in 1792, commissioners appointed for the purpose purchased from Joel Lane 1,000 acres of old fields and thickets near Wake Courthouse and laid off on paper the streets and squares of a capital city. Doubtless quickly the principal avenues were opened by axmen, and the central public square—"Union Square," they named it—where there were some giant oaks, doubtless well-grown trees in the time of Virginia Dare and Sir Walter Raleigh, was selected as the site of a Statehouse.

The building at once erected in the wild woods, where now the city of Raleigh stands, was similar in general plan to this edifice, with offices and passageways on the first floor and legislative halls above. The bricks were made near-by, and the construction was hurried and roughly done.

Twenty years later, after we had won our second war of independence and everybody was feeling quite comfortable, it was determined to improve the building, and Captain William Nichols, of New York, a skilled architect, was employed to cover the exterior with stucco, and a stately dome was reared over the rotunda and the east and west entrances were ornamented by handsome porticos. Indeed, the exterior of the building was very similar to the present edifice. Nor did public spirit stop there. An order was given to Canova, without regard to cost, for a colossal statue of Washington. Canova, who holds rank in his art with the famous Michael Angelo, was then in the zenith of his greatness. He had made a colossal statue of Napoleon, but neither he nor any other sculptor had ever had such

a grand subject as the immortal Washington. We may well believe the work brought forth his best and highest powers. He had the art of giving to his marble a soft appearance. With the utmost pains he gave the surface a most delicate finish, and then broke the dazzling white of the marble and made it seem soft and mellow, like ivory. Even now the remains of the statue in the museum retain these marks of his peculiar handiwork. This statue was brought from Italy by a man-of-war especially detailed for the purpose, was transported by water to Fayetteville and with great care conveyed to Raleigh, escorted into the city in grand style by the Raleigh Blues, the color bearer, mounted on the monument, enthusiastically waving the American flag. It was placed in the rotunda of the Capitol. It was of colossal size, massive, and perfect in every detail. It was one of the masterpieces of the world. There was nothing in America comparable to it.

In 1830 the Statehouse caught fire and the records in the public offices were for a time in peril of destruction. Fortunately the conflagration was arrested. When the Assembly met in November, 1830, it directed that the damage should be repaired, and in order to secure the building against future danger the Legislature, with great particularity, enacted that the chimney corners should be made safe, that sheet iron should be laid in front of the fireplaces, a trap door made to the roof, and a zinc roof should be placed on the building. It was while carrying out this last direction that the flame was lit that resulted on the one hand in the destruction of Canova's splendid statue of Washington and on the other in the erection of this noble edifice which still excites the admiration of all who behold it.

On June 21, 1831, when the work on the new zinc roof was nearly finished, the interior timbers caught on fire and the building was consumed. Two days later the *Raleigh Register* contained the following account of the catastrophe:

"It is our painful and melancholy duty again to announce to the public another appalling instance of loss by fire which will be deeply felt and lamented by every individual in our State. It is nothing less than the total destruction of the Capitol of the State, located in this city. Of that noble edifice, with its splendid decorations, nothing now remains but the blackened walls

and smouldering ruins. The State Library is also entirely consumed, and the statue of Washington, that proud monument of national gratitude, which was our pride and glory, is so mutilated and defaced that none can behold it without mournful feelings, and the conviction involuntarily forces itself upon their minds that it is a loss which cannot be repaired. The most active exertions were made to rescue this *chef-d' œuvre* of Canova from the ravages of the devouring elements, nor were they desisted from until the danger became imminent. The alarm was given about 7 o'clock on Tuesday morning, and it was presently evident that all attempts to extinguish the fire would prove perfectly fruitless. The efforts of the bystanders were then directed towards the protection of the public offices on the square and the adjacent private buildings and to the preservation of the official archives. We are happy to add that none of the former were injured, and that the latter, including the legislative records, were all saved. The beautiful grove of oaks, of which the Capitol was the center ornament, did more towards staying the progress of the flames than any human effort. Seldom has the eye witnessed so awful a spectacle as that vast building in one concentrated blaze, streaming from every window, and a vast column from the roof, forming together a scene not adequately to be described. The origin of the fire is not certainly known, but we believe the general impression is that it was the result of most culpable carelessness on the part of a man who had been employed to assist in soldering the new zinc roof, as he was seen carrying up a coal of fire between two shingles, considerably ignited, a spark from which, in all probability, fell among some combustible matter between the roof and ceiling, which took fire while the hands were at breakfast."

The citizens of Raleigh naturally bemoaned the destruction of the building, but Governor Stokes did not regard it as a great loss. In his opinion there were some mitigating circumstances. In his message to the General Assembly, when it met the following November, he said that the calamity was not so great, because the old Statehouse, built in 1794, was almost ready to tumble down of its own accord, and that perhaps many valuable lives had been saved by its being destroyed by fire instead of tumbling down on the Legislature while in session.

At once Senator Seawell, of Wake, brought forward a bill

providing for the erection of a new Capitol on the site of the old one, and a similar bill was introduced in the House. They met with slight favor. At that time the situation in North Carolina was deplorable. It was one of the darkest periods in the history of the State. There was only one political party, for the Federal party had passed away and the Whig party had not yet risen, and political action was largely colored by local interests, by factions and the ambitions of aspiring men. The West, almost in a state of revolt, because under the Constitution every county, no matter how small or how populous, was entitled to the same representation in the Assembly, realized the tyranny of a situation from which it could get no relief. The dominant East offered no hope of change. When at length a convention was called, in 1835, Governor Swain nobly gave expression to the wild feeling of her people in a moment of exasperation, "We will pull down the pillars of the temple," only to evoke Gaston's quiet reply that he had heard that Sampson had involved himself in the common ruin.

The people of the State were dreadfully poor. The West had no outlet for its surplus productions; there were no internal improvements; steam railroads had not then been introduced, and, indeed, such a man as Nathaniel Macon, reputed to be wise and patriotic, sternly set his face against the State Government undertaking any works of internal improvement.

The stream of emigrants to the far West that had begun before the Revolution had continued in increased volume. In sheer desperation the people were abandoning their native fields and making new homes in the wilderness; the population of the State was at a standstill. While Virginia and the two Carolinas were peopling the region from the Ohio River to New Orleans, they themselves could not increase in population. Between 1820 and 1840 that Western region gained 1,700,000 souls, while the three mother States made no appreciable gain in white population. They made a magnificent gift to the Union, but it was at the expense of their own life blood.

Our towns remained villages. New Bern, the Athens of the State, the largest of our towns, boasted only 4,000 souls. Wilmington had somewhat recovered from her tremendous loss in 1819, when 200 houses and a million dollars of property went up in flames, and had about 3,000; while Fayetteville, at the

head of water navigation, the most accessible to the interior, priding herself as the trade emporium of the State, followed fast with 2,900. Raleigh, still ensconced in her surrounding thickets, had 2,244 citizens.

More than one-seventh of the grown white men could not read or write; but there was an intellectual class—learned divines and doctors and judges and lawyers and public men. That being before buggies were invented, these traveled over the State in their high-stick gigs and laboriously discussed public affairs — the tariff, the sectional issue (then assuming great importance), the Nat Turner insurrection, and the State issue between the West and the East, that could only be quieted by a State convention, and the demand of Fayetteville that the capital be removed to the banks of the Cape Fear.

Such was the condition when the Assembly met in November, 1831, after the conflagration. A letter written by one of the body—one of the first men of that period—well portrays it: "We are distracted, rent asunder by factions, and the result of the legislative discussions and dissensions will be, I fear, that we will separate in anger, after having proved ourselves unprofitable servants. There are five parties here. The largest (but it does not quite constitute a majority) is for rebuilding the Capitol and is opposed to a convention in every form. This may be named the Eastern party. The next in point of magnitude is the Western party; they want a reconstruction of our Constitution with respect to political power, and want no more, but will either keep the government at Raleigh or remove it to Fayetteville, as the one or the other will favor their great end. The third in point of size is the Fayetteville party; their main object is removal, but they are willing also to go for a general convention. The two others are of about the same magnitude, the Northwestern and Southwestern parties. The former want a modification of the Constitution, but are utterly opposed to a removal; and the latter want removal, but resist the alteration of the Constitution." In this conflict of the factions Judge Seawell's bill was quickly disposed of. Mr. Wilson, Senator from Edgecombe, moved to table it, and it was tabled. The House bill was longer discussed. The discussion was prolonged for two days, but on a yea and nay vote the bill failed, 65 to 68. The Assembly of 1831 refused to rebuild.

A year passed, and the ruins of the old Statehouse still marked the site of the former Capitol. But the Constitution, or rather the Ordinance, of 1789 located the capital at Raleigh, and the Legislature had no power to move it. It was even questioned with great seriousness whether the Assembly could hold its sessions in the Governor's Mansion, at the end of Fayetteville Street, as that was outside of the limits of the town. To move the capital a convention was necessary, and a majority of the Legislature was not favorable to a convention.

At the session of November, 1832, the Assembly, by a vote of 35 to 28 in the Senate and 73 to 60 in the House, resolved to rebuild on the old site, and $50,000 was appropriated for the purpose.

Mr. William Boylan, Judge Duncan Cameron, Judge Henry Seawell, Judge Romulus M. Saunders and State Treasurer William S. Mhoon were appointed commissioners to have the work done, and they were directed to make it similar in design to the old building, but more extensive, the lower story at least to be of stone, and to have a zinc roof. At first the commissioners consulted with Captain William Nichols, who had made the addition ten years before, and Mr. Ithiel Town, of New York, by whom doubtless the general plan was designed. A suitable granite was found on the State land near the city.

Women have been the origin of much trouble in this world, but a woman of Raleigh at that time achieved for herself an enviable fame and "deserved a name among the benefactors of the State." Some small railroads had been built at the North, and the Legislature had granted a charter for a railroad from Beaufort to New Bern and then on to Raleigh and the West, under the name of the North Carolina Railroad. It had also chartered the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad, with water communication from Wilmington to Fayetteville and a railroad from Fayetteville to the West, and $5,000 had been appropriated for surveys, but that was all. Mrs. Polk, the widow of Colonel William Polk, son of the famous Colonel Tom Polk, who proclaimed independence at Charlotte, and equally to be revered as the mother of Bishop-General Polk, of the Confederate Army, suggested the construction of a tram railway to the rock quarry and became the principal stockholder in the enterprise. It was the first railroad built in North Carolina,

and became an object-lesson to the people. It was quickly completed, and, besides the cars loaded with stone, it had on it a handsome car, drawn by a single horse, for the accommodation of such ladies and gentlemen as desired to take a railroad airing. People came from the neighboring counties for the express purpose of riding on a railroad.

The commissioners to build the Capitol, with $50,000 at their command, did not dally. The rubbish was cleared away and the excavations made and the foundations were laid. By July 4, 1833, the corner stone was set in place. Up to that time W. S. Drummond was the superintendent and chief architect, and he was one of the principal persons in the ceremony of laying the corner stone.

The Internal Improvement Convention was in session at Raleigh at the time, and a large number of distinguished men were in attendance. Dr. Simmons Baker, Grand Master of the lodge, laid the corner stone with Masonic honors. When the ceremonies at the Capitol were ended there was a discharge of cannon to signalize the event, and then the Fourth of July oration was delivered in the Presbyterian church. At night there was a handsome illumination, elegant transparencies and a balloon ascension.

After the foundations were laid the work progressed more slowly, and it was so expensive that the appropriation was exhausted. The Legislature at its next session appropriated over $75,000 more. To do the stone and finer work, many skilled artisans had been brought from Scotland and other countries. Among them were some who remained among us and made a valuable acquisition to our citizenship. Part of the work was conducted under the supervision of W. S. Drummond and another part under Colonel Thomas Bragg, father of Governor Bragg; but these arrangements did not prove satisfactory, and a year later, in September, 1834, Mr. Town, of New York, acting for the commissioners, contracted with David Paton to come to Raleigh and superintend the work.

Mr. Paton was an architect who had come from Scotland the year before. He was then thirty-three years of age. He was the son of John Paton, of Edinburgh, who was an extensive builder in that city and vicinity and who had built the greater part of the new town and constructed the famous Dean

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Bridge across the water of Leith, and he ranked high in his profession. His parents were of gentle birth. David Paton, the elder, father of John, married a sister of Lord Campbell, of Monzie Castle, one of the oldest families of Scotland, and his father married Eleanor Roper, a sister of Sir Timothy Roper. Thus, through two previous generations the Patons were associated with persons of consequence and had distinguished connections. Having received a liberal education at the University of Edinburgh, David Paton took up the profession of his father and was regularly bred as an architect and builder under his father and under Sir John Sloan, R. A., professor of architecture to the Royal Academy of London. He had married, but had lost his wife, who, however, had borne him a daughter. Circumstances had brought him to New York, where he became known to Mr. Town, who employed him, in the name of the commissioners, to superintend the building of the Capitol. Mr. Town wrote to the commissioners: "I have a high opinion of him as a gentleman and an artist, both in the theory and practice of the building art." And, indeed, no one could have answered the purpose of the commissioners better than Mr. Paton. He was not merely an accomplished architect, but an experienced builder. Not only was he familiar with the beauties of the most famous designers in the world, but he knew how to work and how to employ workmen to the best advantage. He soon demonstrated his capacity. When he first came the cost of overseeing was $25 a day. He reduced that cost to $9. Twenty-eight stonecutters were paid $81 a day. This he reduced to $56. He made a saving in these two items alone of $42 a day. He found himself to be not merely the supervisor of the work, but the superintendent; not merely the superintendent, but the bookkeeper and paymaster. He had every detail of the work on his shoulders. And, then, he had to make the working drawings. He was the builder, the architect, the designer. What experience he had under his father in the matter of construction was of great value, but the learning he obtained under the pupilage of Sir John Sloan when he attended the Royal Academy at London, studying the remains of those magnificent structures that made the Acropolis at Athens the glory of the world, now came into play, and he was found to be the very man, in every

particular, that the commissioners needed. He soon had their entire confidence and the esteem of all with whom he was associated.

On January 1, 1835, the old board resigned. State Treasurer Mhoon was then succeeded by State Treasurer Samuel F. Patterson. General Beverly Daniel became chairman of the board. Governor Charles Manly, Alfred Jones, of Wake, and Charles L. Hunter, of Wake, afterwards State Treasurer, were the new members. When they retired from the board Judge Cameron and Treasurer Mhoon wrote to Mr. Paton: "We take much pleasure in communicating to you our confidence in your skill and competency as an architect, and our approbation of the manner in which you have fulfilled your duty since you have been in the employ of the board." In view of the magnitude of the work, Mr. Paton thought that his compensation should be increased, but the new board urged him to remain, holding out the inducement that the Legislature would increase his remuneration when the work was finished. A year later the commissioners, of their own accord, increased his pay. In the beginning of 1837 he was invited to enter into the service of the Federal Government as an architect to construct the arsenal at Fayetteville, but declined to abandon his work on the Capitol.

At Raleigh he was esteemed by those gentlemen with whom he was associated. General Daniel, writing, in May, 1836, to Colonel Baldwin, late chief engineer in the United States service, said: "Allow me to say that Mr. Quinnerly's impression as to the professional skill of Mr. Paton is only such as he justly merits, and at the same time to add that his moral worth is no less appreciated by those who know him." No man in his day was more careful in weighing his words than the venerated Dr. William McPheeters, the pastor as well as the teacher, of Raleigh. In writing a note to Mr. Paton he concluded: "Accept, dear sir, the assurance of my high regard."

Captain J. A. J. Broadford, who a quarter of a century later was one of the Board of War to conduct the military operations of North Carolina, in offering him the work of constructing the arsenal at Fayetteville, said: "Without wishing to deprive the State of your valuable services, I should nevertheless be pleased if you find it advantageous to accept it. With much respect, I am, my dear sir, yours very truly," etc.

On every side he had made warm friends and had drawn to him the respect of all who appreciated excellence of character, moral worth and fine attainments. He found friends also among the ladies, and, although deeply interested in his work, he courted and was married to Miss Annie B. Farrow, of Washington, N. C.

As he managed every department of the work, from making the plans to paying off the hands, he is entitled to receive the plaudit of "Well done, good and faithful servant," for no finished work ever gave greater satisfaction. In the construction he made over three hundred working drawings which he preserved. How many he failed to preserve is unknown.

Regard the mouldings, the arches, the pillars of the porticos and lower hallway; stand in the exquisitely proportioned rotunda; consider for a moment the construction of the rotunda—the floor self-supporting—a wonderful exhibition of architectural skill. But the masterpiece is certainly the Senate Chamber. View it from the open gallery. What can be more elegant in design, more perfect in execution? Or stand in the hall of the House of Representatives and let your feelings attune themselves to the noble scene. How lofty the emotions that naturally swell the bosom in the presence of such glorious architecture! These halls are reproductions of the most classic halls of ancient Greece. They speak to us of the renowned Pericles, and of those famous artists who, under his directions, made the Acropolis at Athens the wonder of the world. They carry us to the Parthenon and to those other temples on the Acropolis, perfect in their simplicity, which men may reproduce, but never excel.

In 1839, when the Capitol was nearing completion, Mr. Lemay having asked for a description of the building, Mr. Paton wrote him some account of it. Mr. Lemay opened the article in his newspaper:

> "Henceforth our youth may never need to roam,
> The arts to study; better seen at home."

In the course of his article he remarked: "We say to our citizens at home and our friends abroad that there is no building in the Union superior to and but one equal with this, in point of material, style and construction."

Mr. Paton, in his letter, said that the details of the porticos are of the Temple of Minerva, commonly called the Parthenon. The east and west vestibules are richly decorated with granite columns, copied from the Ionic Temple of Ilissus, near Athens. The rotunda, the vestibules and the legislative chambers are reproductions from the Octagon Tower of Andronicus Cyrrhestes, of the Temple of Erechtheus, Minerva, Polias and Pandorus, in the Acropolis.

That wonderful building, the Library at Washington, is composed of reproductions of the most beautiful architectural designs in the world. One beholds here a staircase, there a niche, here a corridor, there an arch—deemed the most exquisite that man has created; but the sight is dazzling, like a kaleidoscope; there is no unity or harmony of design. Here, in this perfect building, we have entire harmony. It is all the simple style of the noble Greek conception. It is the perfection of architecture.

"Before concluding," says Mr. Paton, "I may remark that the stone with which this edifice is constructed is of the toughest and hardest description, containing less iron than any stone I have ever seen: hence it presents a beautiful cream color, of a much warmer tint than marble."

Not only an experienced builder, not only skilled in architecture, Mr. Paton proved himself in his perception of the beautiful to be an artist of high merit. Three-quarters of a century has elapsed, and another artist of high merit, whose life is devoted to the study of the beautiful, is drawn to Raleigh to put in marble one of our greatest and most illustrious citizens. Observing the Capitol, he said: "I consider that there is no building in the country of its size which, for color, for care in construction and purity of style, is its superior. The only building which I ever saw with that beautiful, rich yellow color in your Statehouse is the ruined Parthenon at Athens." Consider—near two thousand five hundred years have brought their changes to mankind, but the Parthenon remains the most splendid conception of art. Our State Capitol was, when first finished, the most perfect building of the kind in America, and to-day remains unequaled; and were it to stand undisfigured by later generations for a thousand years it would still be regarded as unsurpassed by any building in America.

In March, 1840, when the Capitol was nearing its completion and the State of Tennessee had in contemplation the erection of a similar building, Governor Edward B. Dudley wrote to James K. Polk, then Governor of Tennessee, as to the qualifications of Mr. Paton to do that work, and said: "I believe our Capitol will proudly bear a comparison, for beauty, symmetry and strength, with any building within my knowledge, and it is generally admitted by most travelers to be a very superior structure."

Treasurer D. W. Courts said: "I can with great pleasure bear testimony to Mr. Paton's close attention to his business, and the edifice is itself a proud and enduring monument of his great skill as an architect."

Later, Mr. John Primrose, writing to Mr. Paton, said: "The Statehouse is the pride of all our citizens; and, indeed, all travelers who have seen it think it the most handsome building in the Union; and for its masterly workmanship few, if any, can come up to it. All strangers give their testimony in favor of its perfectness and elegance to anything of the kind they have seen; and I think it will be the best monument of your fame as to your ability in your profession as an architect that could be gained for you."

In the summer of 1840 the work was finished. The Assembly had, in December, 1832, appropriated $50,000 for the building, but certainly not with the expectation that that amount would suffice. Mr. Boylan, Judge Cameron and State Treasurer Mhoon and their associates spent that sum in the foundation. They proposed to have a Capitol worthy of the State. At every subsequent session the Assembly made additional appropriations. To be sure, there was some cavilling, and the commissioners resigned; but the Legislature and the new commissioners took no step backwards. Year by year they pressed on the work as it had been begun, until at last, after more than seven years, the sum of $530,000 was expended. As large as that sum was for the time, when the State was so poor and when the entire taxes for all State purposes reached less than $100,000, yet the people were satisfied. The building had been erected with rigorous economy, and it was an object of great pride to the people. Indeed, never was money better expended than in the erection of this noble Capitol.

His work being done, in the summer of 1840 Mr. Paton returned to New York, and, on the urgent solicitation of his father, he sailed for Edinburgh soon afterwards.

In 1847 the office of Superintendent of Public Works of Edinburgh became vacant, and testimonials of the most substantial character were presented to the aldermen of that city for his appointment. The testimonials given by Lord Cunningham, John Learmouth, the late Lord Provost and other men of high standing to his character and capacity are now enduring witnesses of his worth in private life and in public employment, and of his efficiency in his profession.

In 1849 Mr. Paton returned to America, and for more than thirty years he was professor in the American Institute of Architecture, of Brooklyn, and the Mechanical Institute, of New York. There he rendered loyal service in his profession by training others, as he was trained, to study the beautiful, to build solidly, and to erect noble edifices.

Like many others, gifted by nature to enjoy and appreciate the exaltations of noble things, he was simple in his habits and tastes. As his pastor, the Rev. Dr. Patterson, the Presbyterian minister, of Brooklyn, said on the occasion of his funeral, "He was never looking for evil in anyone, and as he was good himself he thought everyone else was good." And Dr. Patterson added: "I have known him intimately for more than thirty years, and have never met such a perfect Christian gentleman—kind and good, too charitable for his own good, as regards to heaping up riches." Such a life he led in the time of his mature manhood—the intellectual life of a learned professor, dealing with the noblest creation of architectural genius; the perfect Christian gentleman, benevolent to his own hurt, esteemed and revered. At length, on March 25, 1882, he died and was interred in Cypress Hill Cemetery, in Brooklyn.

By his first wife Mr. Paton had a daughter, Eleanor Murray, who remained in Scotland, marrying John Wyld, a banker, of Glasgow, a kinsman of Gladstone.

His North Carolina wife bore him eight children—Anna, who died unmarried; Theresa, who became the wife of Elbert Snedeker, once the general manager of the Brooklyn Elevated Railway; Sarah, who married Nathaniel Bush, an architect, of Brooklyn; Matilda, who is the wife of Mr. William Van Gor-

don, of New York; Mary, who is the wife of Oscar Silvey, of Denver; John Paton, of New York; Esther, who married, first, Mr. H. F. Hopkins, by whom she had two sons, and who now is the wife of Mr. E. M. Shute, of New York, and Agnes Charlotte. Agnes, just before the outbreak of the Civil War, came to Washington, N. C., to visit her grandmother. Her health was delicate and it was thought that passing a few winters at the South would be beneficial. The war coming on, she remained with her grandmother, Mrs. Farrow, and grew up so Southern in her sentiments that she did not care to return permanently to the North. She became the wife of Mr. C. E. Foy, of New Bern. Her living children are Claudius B. Foy, Annie E. Foy and Agnes, the wife of Dr. Raymond Pollock, of Kinston. It is especially due to the laudable interest of Mrs. Foy and her children and Mrs. Shute that the portrait of Mr. Paton has been prepared for presentation to the State. They regard with pride his achievements, and are justly proud of his fine character, his natural endowments and professional attainments. As the architect and builder of this beautiful and elegant Capitol building, they hope that his portrait may find an appropriate place in the edifice constructed by his skill and genius.

This portrait was painted by Mr. Jacques Busbee, of Raleigh, and is regarded as a most excellent likeness and as doing great credit to the artistic ability and skill of that talented son of North Carolina.

Your Excellency, my task is done, and yet I linger on the subject.

Not seventy years have passed since the completion of this building, yet it has undying memories. It was finished the year Henry Clay was set aside and his place as the Whig leader given to General Harrison. Four years later Clay spoke from the western portico; but, like Webster and Calhoun, the prize of the presidency was denied him. The voices of other men of large mould also have been heard within this Capitol. Here, too, our great jurists—Gaston, Ruffin, Pearson and their associates—held their sessions and brought renown to North Carolina. Here Badger, Mangum, Dobbin and scores of men known to fame held high debates. Here was brought forth in great travail our sys-

tem of internal improvements, and of education, ramifying the State, disseminating enlightenment and opening the pathways to prosperous, contented and happy homes for our people.

Here Ellis and Clark and the mighty Vance directed the affairs of State in the trying days of war and suffering and desolation, the glories mingled with pain and sorrow, and fading away in heartrending defeat; but through it all the women and men, alike heroes, worthy the poets' loftiest strains. Then, when the people were still bowed in anguish, Carolinians turned their faces to the future, and, with resolution and intelligence, themselves modified their laws and institutions to meet the new conditions; but in vain, for these mute walls are witnesses of the saturnalia of Reconstruction still awaiting some Dante to portray the scenes with realistic power. Yet the dark cloud had its silver lining, and the courageous devotion of Jarvis, John Graham and their Spartan band adds historic interest to that time of fearful storm.

Later, here was the scene of the great State trial, the impeachment of the Chief Magistrate of the Commonwealth and the contest between the intellectual giants of that generation, Governor Graham and Bragg and Merrimon, contesting with Smith and Coningland and Richard Badger.

And these walls have witnessed the reversal of that State policy forced on an unwilling people by the mailed hand of the conquering power, and the full restoration of Anglo-Saxon control. Never in history has a people been so clearly and effectually vindicated as those gallant souls of North Carolina, who, emulating the constancy of Hamilcar, swore their children to undying opposition to those who would destroy their civilization. Let the oppressed of future ages gaze on the scene and take courage. Already hallowed are the memories that these chambers evoke. What grand occasions yet await them! We may not lift the veil of the future, but experience warns us that history constantly repeats itself, and as the web woven by destiny unrolls itself there will yet occur within these enduring walls occasions of surpassing magnitude affecting the weal and woe of our posterity.

THE ACCEPTANCE BY GOVERNOR W. W. KITCHIN.

Captain Ashe:

We have heard with great interest and benefit your eloquent tribute to the high moral character and splendid architectural ability of the late David Paton, and also your remarks about this beautiful Capitol, possibly the best production of his skill and genius.

We appreciate the thoughtfulness and generosity of the donors you represent in the presentation of the portrait of the architect of this Capitol. With the consent of the Council of State, already expressed, I accept the portrait for the State. It will be hung in an appropriate place in this building, to remind its visitors both of the high Christian character of its architect and of the great service he rendered to the State in its construction.